

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PPT-01 /042 W  
----- 008119

P R 020947Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3843

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USDOC WASHDC

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DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD

USDOC FOR CAGNE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, TC

SUBJ: UAE TRANSIT VISA POLICY

1. UAEG APPEARS TO BE TIGHTENING UP CONSIDERABLY ON ISSUANCE  
OF 96-HOUR TRANSIT VISA WHICH UNTIL LAST FEW DAYS HAS BEEN  
ISSUED FREELY AT AIRPORTS. THIS VISA WILL NOW BE ISSUED  
ONLY TO BONA FIDE BUSINESSMEN WHO MUST PRODUCE WRITTEN  
PROOF THAT THEY ARE HERE FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES (A LETTER ON  
A LOCAL FIRM'S LETTERHEAD HAS IN SOME CASES BEEN SUFFICIENT)

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AND GIVE A CONTACT ADDRESS HERE.

2. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED OF CASES OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PROMINENT OIL DRILLER HERE TO PRESENT PROPOSAL TO ADMA WHO WERE PERMITTED INTO ABU DHABI ONLY WHEN REP OF ADMA WENT TO AIRPORT TO GET THEM PAST IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES. EXPEDITERS FROM PROMINENT LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY WERE COMPLETELY UNABLE TO HELP IN THIS INSTANCE.

3. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES AT ABU DHABI AIRPORT CLAIM AIRLINES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED NOT TO ACCEPT PASSENGERS WITHOUT VALID VISAS. IF THIS IS SO, AIRLINES ARE APPARENTLY IGNORING AS BUSINESSMEN STILL ARRIVING WITHOUT VISAS.

4. NEW POLICY IS OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED AT PLUGGING FLOW OF INDIANS, PAKISTANIS AND OTHERS WHO, POSING AS BUSINESSMEN, COME HERE TO FIND JOBS. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY 16,000 PASS-PORTS AT DUBAI AIRPORT ALONE WHICH WERE NOT PICKED UP AFTER EXPIRATION OF THE 96-HOUR VISA, AND WHICH PRESUMABLY BELONG TO INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOW WORKING IN UAE ILLEGALLY.

5. NEW POLICY MAY NOT BE APPLIED UNIFORMLY DEPENDING ON ATTITUDES DIFFERENT OFFICIALS AND NATIONALITY OF VISITOR. TO AVOID ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEM, EMB RECOMMENDS THAT ALL U.S. BUSINESSMEN OBTAIN UAE VISA IN ADVANCE OF ARRIVAL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THROUGH NEW POLICY NOT AIMED AT BONA FIDE AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN, OVERZEALOUS IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CAN CAUSE AMERICANS A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE AND EXPENSE.

6. UAE FONMIN HAS AGREED THAT BEGINNING FEB 2, 1976 VISAS ISSUED TO U.S. BUSINESSMEN WILL BE VALID FOR 12 MONTHS AND MULTIPLE ENTRIES.  
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